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**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson, August 31,  
1812, from Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe  
Correspondence, Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W.  
Gawalt, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

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**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson**

Washington Augt. 31st. 1812

Dear Sir

We have heard with great astonishment and concern that Genl. Hull has surrender'd the army under his command to the British force opposed to him in upper Canada. No letter has been yet recd. from him, but communications from the Govr. of Ohio, & others in that state leave no doubt of the fact. Till his report is made, it is impossible to form a just opinion of his conduct, but from every thing that is known, it appears to have been beyond example, weak, indicisive, and pusilanimous. When he passed the river he had 3 or 4 times the force of the enemy; yet he remaind inactive, by reasons which if good at all, were equally good against passing the river, by which he gave the enemy time , to collect its force, recover its spirits, and assume the offensive; in which time too, the hesitating mind of the Indians and Canadians became fixed, that of the former

to cling to their antient ally, and of the latter to risk nothing on an event so precarious. After passing a long time without doing any thing he retir'd to Detroit, where he surrendered on a summons from the other side of the rive, after a short cannonade. It is possible that in this stage it might have been impossible to maintain his ground at Detroit, but why he did

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not retreat I can not imagine; nor can it be conceived why, he suffer'd his communication to have been previously cut off, with the states of Ohio & Kentucky; For is he was not in a situation to attach Malden, he surely had the means of securing the country opposite it.

This most disgraceful event may produce good. It will rouse the nation. We must efface the stain before we make peace, & that may give us Canada. Very sincerely your friend, Jas. Monroe

RC (Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress).